

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1.-8. (Cancelled)

(Previously Presented) A process for the production of hydrogen cyanide by the BMA process, wherein an aliphatic hydrocarbon with from 1 to 4 carbon atoms is reacted with ammonia in the presence of a platinum-containing catalyst at 1000°C to 1350°C and hydrogen cyanide is separated from the reaction gas formed and wherein the platinum of the catalyst is doped with at least one element selected from the group consisting of copper, silver, gold, and tungsten, the quantity of copper when present being not more than 30 mole %, based on platinum.

10. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 9, wherein said platinum is doped with 0.01 to 50 mole % of an element selected from the group consisting of silver, gold and tungsten.

11. (Previously Presented). The process of claim 9, wherein said catalyst additionally comprises aluminum or magnesium in elemental or nitride form.

12. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 11, wherein said catalyst comprises aluminum oxide.

13. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 9, wherein said catalyst comprises a support material consisting of an oxide or nitride ceramic material.

14. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 13, wherein said support material is aluminum oxide.

15. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 9, wherein said catalyst comprises a coating on a shaped article consisting essentially of aluminum oxide, said coating being fixed on said shaped article by an oxide or silicate adhesive, wherein said coating comprises as its main components: platinum, doped with gold and/or silver; and aluminum in the form of aluminum nitride and/or a platinum-aluminum alloy.

16. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 15, wherein said shaped article is a reaction tube and said coating is fixed on the inside of said reaction tube.

17. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 9, wherein said catalyst is prepared by the steps comprising

a) applying a suspension comprising particulate elemental platinum; particulate aluminum or aluminum nitride; at least one particulate doping agent selected from the group consisting of copper, silver, gold, tungsten, and compounds of these elements; a precursor of an oxide or silicate adhesive; and a carrier liquid onto a shaped article consisting essentially of aluminum oxide,

b) evaporating the carrier liquid and

c) heating the shaped article coated in this way to a temperature of from 1000°C to 1350°C

and wherein the atomic ratio of Pt to Al is from 0.01 to 10 and the molar ratio of Pt to doping elements is at least 1 : 0.001.

18.-20. (Cancelled)